

U P P I N G H A M
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

...oOo...

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the
Y E A R E N D I N G
31st December, 1959.



...oOo...

UPPINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959. This report deals generally with the matters within my responsibility regarding Public Health and Preventive Medicine and is presented in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).....	24,735
Registrar General's Estimate of Population.....	6,230
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1959.....	1,988
Rateable Value.....	£56,513
Nett product of a penny rate.....	£ 203.13.8

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	32	42	74
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Still Births - Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>Rate for</u> <u>District.</u>	<u>Rate for</u> <u>England & Wales.</u>	
Birth Rate	15.8	16.5	
Death Rate	8.5	11.6	
Infant Mortality Rate for 1,000 live births	38.9	22.0	

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	4
Coronary disease, Angina	7	2
Other heart disease	5	6
Other circulatory disease	3	-
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	1	-
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
Suicide	1	-
	<u>36</u>	<u>22</u>
Totals		

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1959.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Influenzal Pneumonia	5	-	3
Measles	55	-	-
Bacillary Dystentery	1	-	-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1/2</u>	<u>2/3</u>	<u>3/4</u>	<u>4/5</u>	<u>5/10</u>	<u>10/15</u>	<u>15/25</u>	<u>25/35</u>	<u>35/45</u>	<u>45/64</u>	<u>65 & Over.</u>
Influenzal Pneumonia		1				1					2	1
Measles	3	6	6	5	4	24	7					
Bacillary Dysentery							1					

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1959.

No new cases were notified, but there was one death from this cause.

TYPE OF DISTRICT.

The district is almost entirely agricultural.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health - John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb.
Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this district is included.

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor - J.E. Garbett, M.R.S.H.

The following examinations were carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester:-

Nose & throat Swabs	3
Sputa	2
V & C	1
Milk	31
Water	22
Miscellaneous	1
	<hr/>
	60
	<hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Supply.

The water supply for the district is derived as follows:-

(a) from the Leicester Corporation's Welland Valley Waterworks to the parishes of Uppingham

Lyddington
Thorpe by Water
Ayston
Bisbrooke
Seaton
Stoke Dry
Glaston

(b) from the Leicester Corporation's borehole at North Luffenham to the parishes of

North Luffenham
South Luffenham
Morcott
Wing
Preston
Ridlington
Pilton

(c) from the Leicester Corporation's borehole at Allexton (in Billesdon Rural District) to the parish of Belton.

(d) from the Oundle & Thrapston R.D.C's. borehole at Tixover (bulk supply) to the parish of Barrowden.

(e) from the Mid-Northants Water Board to the parish of Caldecott.

(f) Two small parishes remain without public mains supply i.e. Wardley (population 26) and Beaumont Chase (population 4). At Wardley a good piped supply is available from the private estate source.



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Quantity & Quality.

All centres of population in the district (excepting Wardley, already adequately supplied) have mains water. Only a few isolated properties remain outside the range of the water mains.

Nine samples of mains water in the district were taken for bacteriological examination. The reports received were consistently good. None of the mains water supplies have any plumbo-solvent characteristics.

Chemically, the water from Belton and North Luffenham boreholes is less satisfactory. Trouble is caused by iron content causing redness. This trouble will be eliminated when the small boreholes in the district are dispensed with and the water supply obtained from the Dove Scheme now progressing.

During the year responsibility for the water undertakings in the district passed from the Uppingham R.D.C. to the Leicester Corporation, in furtherance of the Ministry's policy of grouping undertakings to cover large areas. The passing of this function from the Council came very soon after the modernisation of the supply system and the provision of piped supplies to all parts of the district needing them.

Samples of water from shallow wells still remaining in use were taken from time to time and action taken in one or two cases to improve the quality of the water obtained from them, or to induce the owners to take supplies from the available water mains.

There was no shortage of water during the year.

The following tables show the position at the end of the year regarding mains supplies to dwellings in the various parishes:

Parish	Population (est.)	Number of habitable dwellings.	No. of houses in village not supplied.
Ayston	60	15	3
Barrowden	365	125	4
Belton	282	102	16
Bisbrooke	148	60	4
Caldecott	265	91	-
Glaston	173	57	2
Luffenham North	437	140	9
Luffenham South	325	100	5
Lyddington	290	108	5 (Est.)
Morcott	357	114	8
Pilton	32	8	-
Preston	200	73	10
Ridlington	160	62	3
Seaton	180	58	2
Stoke Dry	30	11	3
Thorpe by Water	45	12	2
Uppingham	2,536	725	3
Wing	245	106	3
Totals	6,130	1,967	82

Complete figures are not available for the parish of Caldecott, which is within the area of supply of the Mid-Northants Water Board.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Progress towards sewerage further villages was made during the year. The sewerage areas remain:

Uppingham
Lyddington
Belton
Glaston and
parts of Preston

Work proceeded on the construction of sewers and sewage disposal works to serve North Luffenham and South Luffenham. Due to unforeseen delay, the expectation of completion of the scheme at the end of the year was not realised and completion would now appear to be likely by the middle of 1960.

The scheme prepared by the Council's consulting engineers for the replacement of the Uppingham sewage farm by a modern sewage disposal works on the activated sludge principle was the subject of an enquiry held by a Ministry of Housing & Local Government inspector in December.

A novel feature of the scheme is the proposal to mix the sludge produced with straw to form compost for agricultural use.

Details of this scheme await agreement with the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, but an efficient sewage disposal works for Uppingham is required at the earliest possible date. During the year the effluent from the existing sewage farm was the subject of a very strong complaint, coupled with the threat of prosecution of the Council, by the River Welland Catchment Board.

An enquiry by an inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the Council's proposals for a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme in Morcott was held during the year. Tenders for the scheme (coupled with the scheme for Wing village approved the previous year) were invited but proved too high to be acceptable. It was, therefore, decided to postpone the schemes and invite tenders again during 1960.

The problem of the acceptance, or otherwise, of farmyard drainage to new sewerage and sewage disposal works remains difficult. In small schemes, the volume and composition of such waste could effect the efficient operation of the disposal works. A firm Ministerial ruling as to whether farmyard drainage is trade waste and, if so, whether it should be accepted at small sewage works and on what terms, would be helpful.

Difficulties in villages where there are piped private water supplies and no proper sewers remain. Pail closets are still in general use and sewage dykes convey foul drainage to ditches and streams in the district.

The estimated closet accommodation in the district is

(a) Privies and pail closets	755
(b) Water closets	1,050 1,180

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection system is a fortnightly collection from all properties and weekly collections from Hotels, Cafes and School Houses in Uppingham.

The scavenging work proceeded reasonably smoothly through the year. With a small labour staff and no reserve vehicle, it is impracticable to preserve a rigid collection schedule and any time lost due to mechanical breakdown of the vehicle and holidays or sickness of the men cannot be made up again. Once again, credit should be given to the men for the consistent work they put in and very small loss of time due to sickness.

The amount of refuse for collection tends to increase, due to new properties in the district and the tendency for the quantity of refuse from premises to increase - mainly in the form of extra paper, packaging and food containers.

If anything, the amount of litter deposited in streets and public places tends to increase and appears to be due to an innate habit on the part of the public of throwing away immediately anything no longer required. The Litter Act, 1958, is of little use in countering the habit. The main administrative weakness is the lack of means of identifying persons responsible, although they may be seen in the act of discarding unwanted articles.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

As before, the Council participated in the Rutland County Joint Pest Control Scheme, which continued to work well through the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Particulars given here are for all purposes, including particulars given elsewhere in the report.

Total number of complaints received..... 37

Number of defects or nuisances discovered..... 45

<u>Nature of inspections.</u>	<u>No. of inspections.</u>	<u>No of re-visits.</u>
Water supplies	33	6
Dwellingshouses	54	20
Tents, vans, etc.	7	1
Food premises	23	10
Offensive trades	-	-
Factories & Workshops	12	-
Drainage systems	160	6
Sewage plant	23	67
Slaughterhouses	4	216
Meat & Foods	180	-
Infectious Disease	4	1
Refuse collection and disposal	66	20
Miscellaneous	27	9
	<u>593</u>	<u>356</u>

Notices.

<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Housing.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1959	6	7
Issued during the year	12	15
Complied with during the year	8	9
Statutory action necessary	1	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1959	10	13

<u>Statutory.</u>	<u>Housing.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1959	-	1
Issued during the year	5	-
Complied with during the year	2	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1959	3	-

Inspections by Medical Officer of Health.

Dwellinghouses	87
Food premises	49
Shops	68
Dairies & Cowsheds	7
Miscellaneous	43

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H O U S I N G

Detailed information regarding housing matters is no longer required to be included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. However, one or two notes about this very important environmental health subject will, no doubt, be of interest. An improvement in the standard of housing in the district continued during the year. The greatest single contribution to this result was the continued good use made of the grant aid provisions of the Housing Acts.

Old properties which might otherwise have been considered to have reached the end of their useful life were reconditioned and improved and took on a new lease of life. Charming and comfortable homes have been created from them and this has also had the incidental effect of preserving the architectural character of the district.

The number of grant schemes approved during the year 29

" " " " " completed " " " 37

" " " unfit houses demolished by the Local Authority during the year 2

The number of unfit houses closed by the Local Authority during the year 1

The number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action by Local Authority 14

New housing development during the year was small. Three private dwellings were completed and seven were under construction at the end of the year.

No new Council housing was carried out during the year but plans were made for additional houses to be constructed in 1960. In particular, old people were borne in mind and the schemes prepared include bungalows designed for their needs. It is hoped that the general housing situation will be helped by the transfer to bungalows of elderly couples and single persons occupying family type houses on the Council estates.

At the end of the year there were 80 applications for houses on the Council's waiting list. 20 of these applications were from outside the Council's area.

F O O D.

Milk.

Thirtyone samples of milk produced and/or retailed in the District were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester, for bacteriological examination.

As a result of these examinations, several cases of brucella abortus were detected in a particular herd of cattle. There appears to be no positive action which may be taken to eradicate this disease and the cases were referred to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. In the absence of other powers, reliance must be placed on effective pasteurization to safeguard against danger of infection from milk from cattle with brucella abortus.

Ice Cream.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. All registered premises sell pre-packed ice cream obtained from approved manufacturers. Thirtytwo such premises are registered.

Meat & Foods.

Four small private slaughterhouses were licensed during the year. Slaughtering took place at irregular times, including evenings and Sundays. Due to these factors and pressure of work in other directions, it was not possible to inspect all animals slaughtered. The average inspection ratio was approximately 60%. The standard of meat produced in the district remained very high, and no diseased meat was detected in the carcasses inspected.

Carcases Inspected.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (estimated)	140	Nil	Nil	943	310	Nil
Number inspected	121	-	-	497	189	-

Consistent meat inspection in a rural area where the sole Public Health Inspector has many other duties to perform is a physical impossibility. Until slaughtering times are controlled, full inspection of carcasses must remain in abeyance. It is fortunate in the circumstances that the meat trade in the area is very high class.

The quality of animals slaughtered is very good and the high class of the meat produced is a reflection of the care and pride which butchers take in their trade. This high quality of meat is attained in spite of the poor standard of amenities and facilities at the slaughterhouses and is attributable to the skill of the butchers.

During the year the urgent attention of the butchers was directed to the provisions of the new regulations governing slaughterhouses and, unfortunately, the indications are that it will be generally uneconomic for individual butchers to try to bring their premises up to the standard required and it seems likely that most of the slaughtering now carried out at their individual slaughterhouses will, in the future, be transferred elsewhere.

Forty-three items of food in tins, jars or other pre-packed containers were condemned during the year.

Food premises.

1. - No. of Food Premises in Area by Type of Business.

Bakehouses.....	2
Dairies.....	1
Butcher's Shops.....	7
Cafes & Hotels.....	8
Grocer's Shops.....	29
(including Greengrocers etc.)	
Fish fried.....	1
Fish fresh.....	1
Premises for sale of ice cream.....	32

N.B. Certain premises are automatically included under more than one sub-heading, e.g. Cafes and Ice Cream Premises.

No. of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Premises registered for sale of ice cream.....	32
Others.....	5

No. of Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

.....	1
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3. - No. of inspections of Registered Food Premises.

.....	33
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4. - Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

- Burnt or buried at Council Refuse Tip.

5. - Examination of Food Consignments.

.....	Nil
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Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

The application of the Food Hygiene Regulations has been mainly confined to premises where food is prepared, i.e. hotels, cafes and bakehouses and the standard of these premises has improved.

An unusual contravention of the Regulations occurred by the occasional use of a mobile tea van, stationed on a highway lay-by, as a sleeping room by the proprietor of the van. The offender was warned about this practice, but was later found sleeping on the premises and at subsequent court proceedings pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined £5.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public swimming baths in the district. Uppingham School has its own swimming bath for the use of the boys and staff only.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE, 1948.

No action has been necessary during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

